Amendments to the Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 31 [[2]], wherein the drive networks and intercommunication networks are arranged using a ~~preferably~~ serial ring structure and are organised in accordance with the master/slave principle.

4. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 3, wherein the communication ~~component is~~ components are designed in the scope of the master/slave principle as a communication master of the respective intercommunication network.

5. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 31 [[2]], wherein the communication components are produced with serial interfaces and are controlled by at least one processor.

6. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 5, wherein the communication ~~component is~~ components are provided with functions of a communication manager.

7. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 6, wherein the plurality of intercommunication networks are arranged according to a star structure with the multi-link controller as the star center ~~centre~~.

8. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 7, wherein at least one intercommunication network is designed for data transmission synchronously with a clock of the multi-link controller.

9. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 8, wherein in at least one of the intercommunication networks, at least one of the nodes is configured as ~~using~~ a master for other intercommunication networks, and their communication control signals are delivered to the other intercommunication networks by the multi-link controller.

10. (previously presented) A drive system according to Caim 9 wherein setpoint position, speed and acceleration values are distributed to one or more of the drive networks via the inter-communication system or network.

11. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 10, wherein ~~the~~ communicated control information contains logical allocation of one or more drive units to one of the networks.

12. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 11, wherein a transfer that at least partially controls the intercommunication networks takes place via the multi-link controller.

13. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 12, wherein all information for the allocation of one of the drive units to a respective drive network is transferred via the multi-link controller to each intercommunication network.

14. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 13, wherein at least a plurality of the drive networks are designed, using program ~~and/~~or circuit technology, in accordance with the master/slave principle, respectively with a communication master which a forms a node of an intercommunication network, and the multi-link controller has all drive units of this intercommunication network each respectively allocated via it to one of the communication masters.

15. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 31 [[~~14~~]], wherein a node of at least one of the intercommunication networks is both [[~~as~~]] a communication master for this intercommunication network, for its individual operation without coupling with the multi-link controller, and [[~~as~~]] a communication slave for coupling with the multi-link controller that operates as a communication master.

16. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 15 wherein the multi-link controller further comprises a plurality of communication components respectively configured as communication masters for external networks, and a processor that controls them.

17. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 16 wherein the multi-link controller includes communication interfaces designed for synchronous and serial data transmission.

18. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 16 wherein the multi-link controller includes a processor provided with program code for the distribution, routing of data from one communication interface to another.

19. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 18 wherein the multi-link controller further comprises one or more modules that control the communication interfaces, for communication management with these communication interfaces.

20. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 16 [[~~19~~]] wherein the multi-link controller further comprises individual parameterisation from an external master data source.

21. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 20 wherein the multi-link controller further comprising a reception storage unit for data between the communication interfaces.

22. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 20 wherein the multi-link controller further comprises an instrument, using program and/or circuit technology, for converting one communication protocol of a first intercommunication network into another communication protocol of a second intercommunication network.

23. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 31 [[2]] and further ~~futher~~ comprising a drive synchronisation control unit as nodes of an intercommunication network for an electrical drive system having at least one communication interface and at least one processor that controls it and is provided with the following functional modules: [[i]] (a) a master axis module, designed to receive, to generate and/or route data and/or commands for a virtual master axis via the at least one communication interface and [[ii]] (b) a data distribution module, which is designed for controlling a data and/or command flow via the least one communication interface with one of the networks, in particular the intercommunication network.

24. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 23 wherein the synchronisation control unit has the processor also provided with a second

communication interface and a drive communication module that can be coupled with it and is designed for controlling a data and/or command flow via the second communication interface with one of the drive networks.

25. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 24 wherein the synchronisation control unit has a master axis module designed for access to the two communication interfaces for the purpose of bidirectional data and/or command interchange between two networks.

26. (currently amended) A drive system according to Claim 25 wherein the synchronisation control unit has a processor ~~also~~ provided with a third communication interface, with which the drive communication module and/or data distribution module for organising a command and/or data flow between one of the drive and/or intercommunication networks, on the one hand, and a further ~~network, in particular~~ control network with asynchronous data interchange, on the other hand, can be coupled.

27. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 26 wherein the synchronisation control unit has a drive communication module designed for access to the second and third communication interfaces for the purpose of bidirectional data and/or command interchange between two networks.

28. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 26 wherein the synchronisation control unit has a data distribution module designed for access to at least two of the first, second and third communication interfaces for the purpose of bidirectional data and/or command interchange between at least two of the different networks.

29. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 28 wherein the synchronisation control unit has a processor provided with one or more modules that regulate and/or control the first, second and third communication interfaces, for communication management via these communication interfaces.

30. (previously presented) A drive system according to Claim 29 wherein the synchronisation control unit has a data distribution module which comprises filtering or other processing functions for data and commands from at least one communication interface for at least one other communication interface.

31. (new) An electrical drive system for the synchronized adjustment of the position, speed or acceleration of a plurality of movable, functional parts of devices and machines, the system comprising:

(a) a plurality of drive units each connected to one or more of the functional parts for said adjustment under computer assisted control;

(b) a plurality of drive networks, each drive network having a plurality of the drive units as network nodes, each drive network allocated to a group of the functional parts, the nodes of at least one of the drive networks connected together for communication between the nodes;

(c) a plurality of intercommunication networks for synchronizing the drive units of different drive networks, each intercommunication network connecting a node of a drive network with a node of another drive network; and

(d) a multi-link controller having a plurality of communication components, each communication component being a node of one of the intercommunication networks for coupling the nodes of the intercommunication network.